

On average, 10 school-age pedestrians are killed by school transportation vehicles (school buses and non-school bus vehicles used as school buses) each year, and 4 are killed by other vehicles involved in school bus-related crashes.

More school-age pedestrians are killed in the afternoon than in the morning, with 32 percent of the fatalities occurring in crashes between 3 and 4 p.m.

Table 1
Total Fatalities in School Transportation-Related Crashes by Time of Day, 1996-2006

| Time of Day | Occupants* | Pedestrians | Total |
|----------------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| Midnight-6:59 a.m. | 9 | 10 | 19 |
| 7-7:59 a.m. | 20 | 32 | 52 |
| 8-8:59 a.m. | 14 | 14 | 28 |
| 9-9:59 a.m. | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| 10-10:59 a.m. | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| 11-11:59 a.m. | 0 | 5 | 5 |
| Noon-12:59 p.m. | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 1-1:59 p.m. | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| 2-2:59 p.m. | 15 | 22 | 37 |
| 3-3:59 p.m. | 23 | 51 | 74 |
| 4-4:59 p.m. | 10 | 12 | 22 |
| 5-11:59 p.m. | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| 11-Year Total | 114 | 159 | 273 |

*Does not include occupants of other vehicles in school transportation-related crashes.

Between 1996 and 2006, 96 crashes occurred in which at least one occupant of a school transportation vehicle died. More than half of those crashes (57%) involved at least one other vehicle. In the 41 single-vehicle crashes, 48 occupants — 14 drivers and 34 passengers — were killed. In the 55 multiple-vehicle crashes, 34 drivers and 32 passengers died. In the 41 single-vehicle crashes, the first harmful events were as follows: striking a fixed object (23 crashes), a person falling from the vehicle (6 crashes), the vehicle overturning (4 crashes), the vehicle colliding with a train (2 crashes), other non-collision (2 crashes), and collision with a non-fixed object (2 crashes).

In 53 percent of all crashes involving fatalities to occupants of a school transportation vehicle, the principal point of impact was the front of the vehicle.

Since 1996, 6 drivers and 7 passengers have died in school bus body vehicles providing transportation for purposes other than school or school-related activities (churches, civic organizations, etc.). In 1987, one such multi-vehicle crash resulted in the deaths of 27 occupants, including the driver.

“From 1996 to 2006, one-half of the school-age pedestrians killed in school transportation-related crashes were between 5 and 7 years old.”

Table 2

Total Occupant Fatalities in School Transportation-Related Crashes by Principal Impact Point on School Transportation Vehicle, 1996-2006

| Principal Impact Point on School Transportation Vehicle | Type of Crash | | | | Total | |
|---|----------------|------------|------------------|------------|-----------|------------|
| | Single-Vehicle | | Multiple Vehicle | | | |
| | Crashes | Fatalities | Crashes | Fatalities | Crashes | Fatalities |
| Front | 17 | 21 | 34 | 43 | 51 | 64 |
| Right Side | 6 | 8 | 9 | 11 | 15 | 19 |
| Left Side | 3 | 4 | 10 | 10 | 13 | 14 |
| Rear | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Top | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Undercarriage | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Non-Collision | 11 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 11 |
| Other/Unknown | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 11-Year Total | 41 | 48 | 55 | 66 | 96 | 114 |

“Impacts to the front of the school transportation vehicle occur in 53 percent of fatal school transportation-related crashes.”

Table 3

School-Age Pedestrians Killed in School Transportation-Related Crashes by Vehicle Maneuver, 1996-2006

| Vehicle Maneuver | School Bus Body Type | Vehicle Used as School Bus | Other Body Type | Total |
|---|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|------------|
| Going Straight | 48 | 3 | 28 | 79 |
| Slowing or Stopping in Traffic Lane | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Starting in Traffic Lane | 26 | 3 | 1 | 30 |
| Passing or Overtaking Another Vehicle | 0 | 0 | 9 | 9 |
| Leaving a Parked Position | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Maneuvering to Avoid an Animal, Pedestrian, Object, Other Vehicle, etc. | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Turning Right | 9 | 0 | 0 | 9 |
| Turning Left | 13 | 1 | 0 | 14 |
| Backing Up (Other Than for Parking) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Negotiating a Curve | 1 | 1 | 2 | 4 |
| Entering Parked Position | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Changing Lanes | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Other/Unknown | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| 11-Year Total | 106 | 9 | 44 | 159 |

For more information:

Information on traffic fatalities is available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, NVS-421, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590. NCSA can be contacted on 800-934-8517. Fax messages should be sent to 202-366-7078. General information on highway traffic safety can be accessed by Internet users at <http://www.nhtsa.gov/portal/site/nhtsa/ncsa>. To report a safety-related problem or to inquire about motor vehicle safety information, contact the Vehicle Safety Hotline at 888-327-4236.

Other fact sheets available from the National Center for Statistics and Analysis are *Overview, Alcohol, African American, Bicyclists and Other Cyclists* (formerly titled *Pedalcyclists*), *Children, Hispanic, Large Trucks, Motorcycles, Occupant Protection, Older Population, Pedestrians, Race and Ethnicity, Rural/Urban Comparisons, Speeding, State Alcohol Estimates, State Traffic Data, and Young Drivers*. Detailed data on motor vehicle traffic crashes are published annually in *Traffic Safety Facts: A Compilation of Motor Vehicle Crash Data from the Fatality Analysis Reporting System and the General Estimates System*. The fact sheets and annual Traffic Safety Facts report can be accessed online at <http://www-nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/CMSWeb/index.aspx>.

